



---

*Frank H. Murkowski, Governor*

Edgar Blatchford  
Commissioner  
PO Box 110800  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0800

## **NEWS RELEASE**

Tina Dickinson  
Communications Specialist  
907-269-4568  
Fax: 907-269-8125  
Tina\_dickinson@commerce.state.ak.us  
www.commerce.state.ak.us

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 19, 2004**

**No. 04-035**

### **First Alaskan Women to Reach Hall of Fame**

The Asian Leaders Association recognized Elsa Sargento as a  
"Knight in Shining Armor"

(Anchorage) – In the tradition of the grand roundtable of the Spanish Knights, Elsa Malapit Sargento was inducted into the 2004 Asian Academy Hall of Fame at a ceremony in New Mexico. Elsa is the first Alaskan women and the first Filipino-American in the state to ever receive this honor.

In Albuquerque, New Mexico this week, Elsa Malapit Sargento, the State's Executive Director of the Alaska State Community Service Commission, stood among seven other recipients selected from across the world to become the newest inductees into the Asian Academy Hall of Fame. The annual ceremony takes place during the Conference of Asian Leaders Association.

"I was trembling with delight to stand among those I have revered for so many years," said Elsa. "In a moment of reflection, I wondered how I got there and my conclusion was - because of my passion for inspiring young people to make a difference in this world."

The Asian Academy Hall of Fame was created to shine the light on outstanding Asians so that they may serve as role models for all the young people of the world. The goal is to bring very diverse Asian American communities together and pay tribute to those who have made a substantial difference to their culture and society.

Elsa is a retired schoolteacher of 33 years who now dedicates her life to helping others across Alaska to join in the spirit of volunteerism and community service. Governor Murkowski appointed her as the Executive Director of ASCSC in 2002. She is also a founding board member of Bridge Builders of Anchorage.

Other recipients of the Hall of Fame Awards were Victor Barrios, Alex Esclamado, Dr. David His, Dominic Pangborn, Dr. Hector Sulit, Dr. Sook Wilkinson, and Sean F. Wu, Ph.D.

For more information on this award or the Asian Leaders Association go to  
<http://www.cimpa.org> [www.asianleaders.org/](http://www.asianleaders.org/)

###